III.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Allotment of iron and steel for civilian consumption.

* 147 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) what the allotments of iron and steel have been for civilian consumption during 1945–46 and 1946–47;

(*b*) who the issuing authorities are in the city and the mufassal;

(*c*) what the arrangements made for the equitable distribution of iron and steel are;

(*d*) what is the number of applications received, quantities involved and the number of applications together with the total quantity favourably considered;

(*e*) whether any directions have been issued either defining "essentiality" or the order of priorities and if so what the definition is or the order of priority is;

(*f*) whether the building trade has been given a high priority;

(*g*) whether any advisory body is associated with the sanctioning authorities to determine priorities;

(*h*) whether the Government have at any time *suo motu* issued orders sanctioning iron and steel in some cases, and if so, whether a list of such cases together with the quantity involved can be given;

(*i*) what is the staff employed in the city and the mufassal to examine and grant applications for iron and steel; and

(*j*) whether a comprehensive statement on all matters connected with the supply and distribution of iron and steel can be given?

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" (*a*) The allotment of iron and steel for civilian consumption for 1945 and 1946 were 20,625 tons and 62,600 tons respectively. The Government of India have allotted a quantity of 31,000 tons for the year 1947 for consumption by the general public including small scale manufacturers of consumer goods and the normal maintenance requirements of buildings and roads of the Public Works Department of the Government, Local Boards and Municipalities.

" (*b*) The Director of Industries and Commerce is the authority to issue permits for the whole Province in respect of the quantity allotted to this Province under 'Provincial and State allotments' and the Iron and Steel Controller is the authority in regard to iron and steel under other heads, viz., 'Industrial Maintenance and Packing, Steel Processing Industries, Government Development Schemes, Industrial Development Schemes and Export'.

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" (c) The Director of Industries and Commerce issues permits on satisfying himself about the reasonableness and essentiality of the demands. A press communiqué was issued in this regard by the Director, on 5th October 1947.

" (d) Information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House.

" (e) Government have directed that allotments should be restricted in a quarter to one ton in the case of small fabricators of consumer goods, two tons in the case of private buildings and 5 tons in the case of public utility buildings and small scale industrial establishments with preference to maintenance requirements over new construction in the following order :—

(a) Public Utility buildings.

(b) Small scale industrial establishments.

(c) Private buildings.

" (f) Yes, Sir.

" (g) No, Sir.

" (h) No, Sir. In the case of applications addressed to the Government or the Hon'ble the Ministers, the Government have generally suggested to the Director of Industries and Commerce that applicants may be assisted to the extent possible.

" (i) The staff employed at present in the City are—

One Steel Officer on Rs. 300–700 per mensem (Gazetted).

One Steel Assistant on Rs. 200–300 per mensem.

Two Senior Superintendents on Rs. 190–240 per mensem.

Two Junior Superintendents on Rs. 140–170 per mensem.

Twelve Upper Division Clerks on Rs. 80–125 per mensem.

Twenty Lower Division Clerks on Rs. 45–90 per mensem.

Two typists on Rs. 45–90 per mensem.

One attender on Rs. 24–30 per mensem.

Nine peons on Rs. 16–25 per mensem.

No special staff is employed in the mufassal.

" (j) With the reintroduction of Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order, 1941, with effect from 1st September 1946, the Government of India introduced a revised scheme of distribution according to which the available steel is divided into the following two quotas :—

(1) Railway quota;

(2) Iron and Steel Controller's quota.

The railway quota is operated by the Railway Board and the Provincial Government have no control over it.

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The Iron and Steel Controller's quota has been divided into the following specific allotments :—

(i) Industrial Maintenance and packing;

(ii) Steel Processing Industries;

(iii) Government Development Schemes;

(iv) Industrial Development;

(v) Export; and

(vi) Provincial and State Allotments.

Items (i) to (v) above are operated upon directly by the Iron and Steel Controller on the advice of the Industrial Associations or Government Authorities concerned. The quota under the "Provincial and State allotments" is intended to meet the requirements of the general public including persons manufacturing consumers goods, etc., on a small scale, the normal maintenance requirements of buildings and roads of Public Works Department of the Government, Local Board and Municipalities and those for repairs to nightsoil carts, dustbins, etc. The procedure envisaged by the Government of India for the distribution of this quota is as follows :—

(1) The Iron and Steel Controller will inform the Provincial or State Authority of the amount of steel allotted to him;

(2) the Provincial or State Authority will inform the Iron and Steel Controller of the quantity of steel allotted to each registered stockholder in the Province or State concerned;

(3) the Iron and Steel Controller will then direct each stockholder to place his indent on a specific producer, controlled stockholder or transit depot;

(4) when the steel arrives in the stockholder's yard, he will immediately inform the Provincial or State authority of the arrival.

The Government of India have allotted the following quantities of steel under various heads for 1947 :—

	TONS.
(i) Railway quota	**300,000**
(ii) Iron and Steel Controller's quota—	
(a) Industrial Maintenance and packing	**150,000**
(b) Steel Processing Industries	**210,000**
(c) Government Development Schemes.	**80,000**
(d) Industrial Development	**50,000**
(e) Export	**10,000**
(f) Provincial and State allotment	**250,000**
Total	**1,050,000**

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Under the 'Provincial and State allotments' the Government of India have allotetd a quantity of 31,000 tons of iron and steel for 1947 for the Madras Province. With the concurrence of this Government the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, has authorized the Director of Industries and Commerce to issue permits for iron and steel on registered stockholders and the Director has been issuing permits after examining the essentiality of the demands. The Government have since reorganized the distribution of iron and steel. They have ordered that 50 per cent of supplies for every quarter of the Provincial quota of steel allotted to this Province shall be set apart for agricultural purposes. The remaining 50 per cent of the Provincial quota of steel will be utilized for the normal maintenance requirements of building and roads of the Public Works Department of the Government, Local Boards and Municipalities, repairs to dustbins, etc., and for the general public including small manufactures of consumer goods. The quantity of steel required for the general public will be allocated to the districts according to the population and internal requirements. Of the quantity of steel for the general public, 20 per cent of the district quota will be earmarked for small scale fabricators of consumer goods to be divided among them in the proportion in which their quotas were originally fixed."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" This answer was to have been given long ago. The answer is a very long one and a very important one. If the control of iron and steel distribution is to continue many of the points raised there require more clarification. May I suggest that for putting supplementary questions it may be taken up to-morrow? I wish, Sir, that copies of the answers had been circulated to us earlier so that we might have come prepared."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Was it not the same question . . . ? "

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" It was not placed on the table of the House. The answer is furnished to us just now, because the Hon. Minister wanted time."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I think the same question came up before the House and it was answered previously. It is only the details as to the method of distribution which my hon. Friend has been asking for have been furnished. In this connection, I would like to make a suggestion, Sir, that when hon. Members give notice of such long questions it would be desirable if they unstar the questions. I would submit this for your consideration. If any hon. Member feels that after the unstarred question has been answered that he should have further points elucidated they can come forward with starred questions. As it is it becomes very difficult. So far as this particular question is concerned I believe this has already been answered once in some form or other and if my friends want any particular points of

urgency to be elucidated it could certainly be done by means of a short notice question. But there is no such importance or urgency in this matter."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are we to understand that we won't ask supplementary questions on this to-morrow, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Nobody has asked for it. Mr. Suryanarayana Rao who raised the question is quiet and I do not think we require any more time."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Other Members may want time, Sir."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" It may be taken up to-morrow."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Yes."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I do not think that the Hon. Minister has heard it, Sir, that it would be taken up to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes, Sir, I have heard it."

[Questions Nos. 148, 149 and 150 were answered on 8th November 1947.]

Advisory Committees to assist the Assistant Commissioners for Hindu Religious Endowments.

* 151 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Advisory Committees were appointed to assist the Assistant Commissioners for Hindu Religious Endowments;

(*b*) if so, how many such Advisory Committees were appointed and in what districts;

(*c*) what functions were assigned to these Advisory Committees;

(*d*) whether the Government have received from the President of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board any report about the working of the Advisory Committees;

(*e*) if so, will the Government place the report on the table of this House; and

(*f*) whether the Government have any proposal to abolish the Advisory Committees?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Five committees were constituted; two in Tanjore district, two in Trichinopoly district, and one in South Arcot district.